



VOLUME 69 No 2

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March 2017

Making a difference, one bag at a time

Millions of Americans live from one day to the next uncertain where their next meal will come from. A sad statistic that helps to reinforce the importance of our annual national Stamp Out Hunger® Food Drive, to be held this year on Saturday, May 13.

"Letter carriers see many of these folks along our routes each day," NALC President Fredric Rolando said. "Our food drive can make a positive difference in the lives of those who have been dealt difficult hands."

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the national drive, Rolando noted. "Our work and our success will be just as crucial this year as ever, since the problem of hunger in this country shows little sign of going away," he said.



The Great Postal Strike of 1970

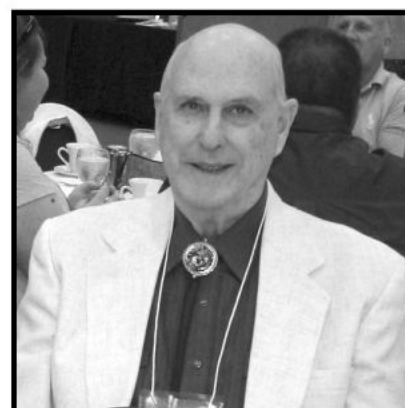
A Conversation with Former Branch 9 VP Wain Pearce

By: Jeremy Rothstein, Editor

On Wednesday, March 18, 1970, New York City letter carriers after 18 months of sheer frustration over pay issues decided they would take their campaign to the streets for higher wages. The first strike against the Post Office had begun and would soon spread to 14 states with over 208,000 postal employees, including Branch 9.

Wain Pearce was the VP of Branch 9 at the time. I spoke with him recently on the phone about the strike. He recalls the time as desperate. It was a time when there wasn't any alternative but to strike. The struggle carriers had endured was at a point of action. Their wages were so low that letter carriers would leave work at 2:30 and go to a second job at 3:00 in order to support their families. Other carriers supplemented their wages with welfare payments. Wain wrote in 1970 that postal employees have been taken for granted for too long and their only reward has been to sink deeper into poverty.

Branch 9 President Vern Doll had traveled to Washington to meet with other national union leaders leaving Wain as the Acting President. Wain needed to find a meeting hall in order to hold



Wain Pearce
Past Branch 9 Vice President

the vote on whether Minneapolis carriers were going to join the strike or not. He also needed to find people to help start making signs, etc., for the potential strike. But before the Minneapolis carriers had a chance to meet and vote on the strike. Wain along with 5 other union officers were summoned to go stand before a federal judge. That judge told them to, "go to work or go to jail". The 5 officers and their lawyer (Eugene Keating brother of Jerome J. Keating of Branch 9) told the judge there was to be a vote, in which the membership would make the decision on what the Union would do. During the meeting the membership overwhelming voted to strike, and shortly thereafter VP Pearce was issued an arrest warrant, which is currently on display at the Branch 9 office.

VP Pearce recalls members with 20 - 30 years of service (close

Postal Strike continued pg. 8

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RETIREMENTS



Charles Shimota celebrates his retirement with his fellow carriers at Chanhassen. Enjoy your retirement Charlie!



Tom Kunshier (Fridley) celebrates his last punch with Steward Perry Korzenowski. Congratulations Tom!



Michael Giffis (senior carrier in Minneapolis with 45 years) celebrates his retirement at Lost Lake with Steward Robb Petersburg and Mike Zagaros. Congratulations!



Linda Mann and Gene Panser (Loring) celebrate their retirements with Darrell Maus, Steward James Moreside and Mike Zagaros. Happy retirement Linda and Gene!

Retirees Rolling Right Along

Fellow retirees, can you roll a ball down a wooden track? Well, you can't possibly do any worse than me, and your opportunity to prove it is coming up on Saturday, April 22!

As I constantly say, your chances for meaningful fun do not end with retirement. Branch 9 offers plenty of opportunities for us to serve and have a great time doing so, such as helping with the Food Drive or battling Branch 28 at the semiannual cribbage tournaments.

One of Branch 9's biggest charity events is on the evening of Saturday, April 22 at the New Hope Bowl in New Hope and YOU ARE INVITED (see ad on page 13). The redoubtable Bob Baird is looking for retirees to compete on the Retiree Team and show those young pups how we (old timers) can outshine them by raising more money for MDA than they can, and have a terrific time while doing it. To sign up, please call Bob at 612-599-8934. He's waiting by his phone for you.

If you can't bowl (or are as wretched a bowler as I am), it doesn't matter. It's for charity, it's for fun, and there will be SO MUCH to do and see — baskets, prizes, auctions, and a terrific time to be had by all.



Rodney Anderson
Director of Retirees

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Voice: (612) 781-9858
Fax: (612) 781-9849
Website: branch9nalc.com

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Mike Zagaros

Exec. Vice President
Darrell Maus

Recording Secretary
JoAnn Gilbaugh

Treasurer
Lisa O'Neill

Financial Secretary
Samantha Hartwig

Editor
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Jim Nelson

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The Branch Nine News is a monthly publication of NALC Branch 9, and is published in the interest of and for the members of NALC Branch 9.

The opinions expressed by the writers are not necessarily those of the OFFICERS, or of NALC Branch 9.

Articles MUST be submitted to the editor by the 1st of the month, and must be signed. The Editorial Staff reserves the right to edit or refuse to print articles which are derogatory in nature.

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As we begin 2017, the focus of our Union continues to be much like FERS (Federal Employees Retirement System) a three-legged stool. The three legs are:

1. Contract Enforcement,
2. Improving the Atmosphere on the Workroom Floor, and
3. A Focus on Legislation Affecting the Postal Service and our jobs and benefits as well.

Each of these are #1. That's 1A, 1B and 1C.

1A – Contract Enforcement of the terms of our Collective Bargaining Agreements (CBA otherwise known as the contract)

is one of the primary obligations of the NALC or any union. The people whose obligation is not just made up of the officers and stewards. **It is everyone's responsibility to ensure that they are working within the confines of the CBA.** It is also everyone's responsibility to hold management accountable when they are requiring or allowing it to happen. Your steward has the grievance procedure to hold management accountable. You also have access to the first step of filing a grievance at Informal Step A on your own behalf. But the most important role you have as a rank and file member **is when you witness something you believe to be wrong, tell someone.** Tell your steward, or call the Branch Office or even better, if you are willing, give a written statement in support of what you saw or heard.

Not everything that we think is wrong is a contractual violation. Remember the CBA is primarily a list of restrictions on management. Article 3 states that **"The employer shall have the exclusive right subject to the provisions of this Agreement and consistent with applicable laws and regulations."** In other words,

unless it is addressed in the CBA, LMOU, Laws, Memorandum of Understanding, other handbooks manuals and national level decisions, management does have the right to tell us what to do and how to do it. Even if we believe that it is a violation, we are expected to **"obey now and grieve later, unless it is a threat to your personal safety or against the law"** (subjecting you to arrest). Even if the instruction does not make sense or it takes longer to follow the instruction. Take for example the latest directive from USPS Headquarters regarding case configuration. "HQ identified routes that have more than 2 cases. It is a requirement to reduce cases in all offices unless an exception is approved." There does not appear to be a definitive list of what qualifies as an exception. In conversations with management, if you are unable to put all the mail into the case or you have physical restrictions, they would qualify as an exception. I have heard from several offices that management is implementing this directive and carriers are asking what we can do? Speak to your manager about why you need more than 2 pieces of equipment. The MPOO or MCSO are the people who approve all exceptions. **Case configuration is not a part of the CBA.** If you have questions about whether or not you should be an exception see your steward or gives us a call at the Branch Office. If you want to learn more about the contract or your rights under the CBA, all members are welcome to attend the monthly training at the Officers and Steward's Board Meeting the 2nd Tuesday of every month at the Crystal VFW.

1B - Improving the Atmosphere on the Workroom Floor. Carriers spend more of their waking hours



Mike Zagaros

at work than doing anything else. While most of your time is spent on the street. It is in the office that the most difficult issues happen. How carriers are treated on the workroom floor by management and by each other is a serious situation that needs to be addressed. **The responsibility for maintaining an atmosphere where everyone is treated with dignity and respect falls on management. It is the union's responsibility to hold management accountable for the atmosphere when they don't.** Too often we hear about carriers being bullied, belittled, called names, yelled at and even threatened, by management and by other carriers. Interpersonal Conflict has been part of our society since the beginning of time, but that doesn't make it right. That type of atmosphere can't be tolerated or allowed to continue. **What can you do if it happens to you? Tell someone your steward, your supervisor, the Branch Office etc. do not remain silent.** Remember the union has time limits in which to file a grievance. 14 days from the date of what happened. Even if there were no witnesses, report it. If you see or hear it happening to someone else, let the person being abused know that you were a witness and are willing to support them. The most difficult conflicts

"Pres. Report" continued on pg. 11

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2017 Proposed By-Law Additions & Changes

ARTICLE VI.B

NEW ADDITION SECTION 6

A. At the August General Membership Meeting of the year of the bi-annual MSALC training meeting, the Branch shall decide what compensation will be allowed to the attendees.

B. All members who meet the eligibility requirements and properly request funding will be entitled to an equal amount of available funds to defray the claimed expense for attendance at the bi-annual MSALC training meeting. Funding will come from dollars allocated under the training budget of the year the bi-annual MSALC training meeting is held.

C. Eligibility for payment of the expenses of any attendee of the bi-annual MSALC training meetings will include:

- 1. Attendance at 2 of the 12 General Membership Meetings immediately preceding the MSALC training meeting.**
- 2. A Letter of Intent to attend, along with a Request for Funding if desired, submitted to the Branch Recording Secretary by July 1 of the year in which the bi-annual MSALC training meeting will be held.**
- 3. Be a member in good standing at the time of the bi-annual MSALC training meeting.**

Submitted by,
Joe Rian

ARTICLE 2, SECTION 6.A

CURRENT LANGUAGE

Any active member on the USPS rolls who is in a non-pay status must pay full membership dues directly to the Branch 9 Financial Secretary each month. If an active member exceeds a period of sixty (60) consecutive days without having paid membership dues, they will be

dropped from the Branch 9 NALC membership.

Active members may, for extenuating circumstances appeal to the Branch 9 Executive Board to have their membership dues waived and thereby retain their NALC membership. The Executive Board will rule by majority on all such appeals.

PROPOSED NEW LANGUAGE SECTION 6.A

Any active member on the USPS rolls who is in a non-pay (no-deduct) status for reasons of; members on OWCP, members in non-pay status pending removal, members in non-pay status for medical reasons, must pay full membership dues directly to the Branch 9 Financial Secretary each month.

If an active member exceeds a period of ninety (90) consecutive days without having contacted the Branch or paid membership dues, they will be dropped from the Branch 9 NALC membership.

Active members may, for extenuating circumstances appeal to the Branch 9 Executive Board to have their membership dues waived and thereby retain their NALC membership. The Executive Board will rule by majority on all such appeals.

Submitted by,
Darrell Maus

ARTICLE III, SECTION 6

CURRENT LANGUAGE

The Financial Secretary shall receive receipts for, and disburse all monies of the Branch 9 Building Corporation, and keep a regular account thereof. The Financial Secretary shall maintain and coordinate the insurance policies of Branch 9 and the Branch 9 Building Corporation.

PROPOSED NEW LANGUAGE SECTION 6.

The Financial Secretary shall receive receipts for all monies of the Branch and keep a regular account thereof.

The Financial Secretary shall receive receipts for, and disburse all monies of the Branch 9 Building Corporation and keep a regular account thereof. He/ She shall draw all warrants on the Treasurer ordered by the Building Corporation.

The Financial Secretary will reconcile all Branch accounts and all Building Corporation accounts per account statement schedule.

The Financial Secretary shall maintain and coordinate the insurance policies of Branch 9 and the Branch 9 Building Corporation.

Submitted by,
Elizabeth O'Neill

ARTICLE III, SECTION 23

CURRENT LANGUAGE

Branch 9 Officers shall strive in all their endeavors, both internally and with management, to assure that there shall be no discrimination by the Employer or the Union against employees because of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, disability or marital status.

PROPOSED NEW LANGUAGE SECTION 23

Branch 9 Officers and Stewards shall strive in all their endeavors, both internally and with management, to assure that there shall be no discrimination by the Employer or the Union against employees because of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, **gender identity**, age, disability or marital status.

Submitted by,
David Flynn

2017 Proposed By-Laws cont. pg. 11

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Adult Learners Scholarship

Leonard A. Larson/ Barry J. Weiner Scholarship

**Adult Learners,
please submit your scholarship
application to Branch 9 by
May 23, 2017 or bring to that
night's GMM**

Leonard A. Larson/Barry J. Weiner Adult Learner Scholarship Application Form

Name _____

Phone _____

Address _____

Active or Retired _____

Work Unit _____

Two (2) \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded.

The following rules apply to the two scholarships:

- A. Any member active or retired in good standing of Branch 9 is eligible for one of the two scholarships.
- B. The scholarships may be used for any accredited trade school, vocational/technical institute, community college, or university. The Adult Learner Scholarships may also be used for any community, county or state adult educational program.
- C. One name will be drawn for each scholarship. The first name picked will be the winner. The winners of any drawing will not be eligible for the other drawings.
- D. The application for the drawings will run in the March and April issues of the Branch Nine News. The drawing will be held at the May General Membership Meeting. The applications shall contain the following information:
 - 1. The applicant's name, address, and home phone number.
 - 2. Whether active or retired.
- E. Payment to the winners will be made after they have enrolled and can show proof of payment towards their tuition.
- F. Benefits under the Adult Learner Scholarships expire one year from date of drawing.

Members who plan to attend an accredited education institution should complete the application and return it to the Branch Office by May 23, or bring to that night's General Membership Meeting.



Nellie Stone Johnson Scholarship A Labor and Education Partnership

This scholarship provides financial assistance to racial/ethnic minority union members and their families who wish to pursue post-secondary education at one of Minnesota's State Universities or at one of the two year community and technical colleges that are part of the Minnesota State colleges and Universities (MnSCU).

Application for 2017 - 2018 academic year now being accepted.

<http://www.nelliestone.org>

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2017 Minnesota AFL-CIO Scholarships

UNIVERSAL APPLICATION FORM (Entry
Deadline: April 30, 2017)

The Minnesota AFL-CIO sponsors scholarships for high school seniors graduating in 2017. There are three requirements for the Minnesota AFL-CIO scholarships. To be eligible, you must:

- be a **union member** or a **dependent** of a union member whose local union is affiliated with the Minnesota AFL-CIO;
- have a **straight "B" average** or better (*2.0 in a 3.0 grade point system/3.0 in a 4.0 grade point system*);
- attend a post-secondary institution located *within the state of Minnesota*.

Winners will be selected by lot by the Minnesota AFL-CIO Education Committee.

Please submit ONE application only. Duplicate entries will be disqualified.

Select One Option Only:

Applying for college or university

DAVID K. ROE SCHOLARSHIP
(two \$1,000 scholarships awarded)

David Roe served as president of the Minnesota AFL-CIO from 1966 – 1985 and is President Emeritus.

HUBERT H. HUMPHREY MEMORIAL AWARD
(two \$1,000 scholarships awarded)

Hubert Humphrey served as U.S. Senator from Minnesota, and Vice President of the United States.

Applying for vocational/technical

DONALD PILLA MEMORIAL AWARD
(one \$1,000 scholarship awarded)

Donald Pilla was a young union trade unionist killed on the picket line.

PART 1 – TO BE COMPLETED BY THE APPLICANT: (Please print or type)

Applicant _____
Last First Middle

Home Address _____
Street City State Zip

High School _____ **Year of graduation** _____

Parent's Name _____ **Phone** () _____
(or Guardian)

Home Address _____
Street City State Zip

AFL-CIO Local Union Affiliated with the Minnesota AFL-CIO _____
Local No. Name of International Union

~ OVER ~

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**WELCOME
NEW MEMBERS**

Mebratu Asfaw
Holly Balsimo
Joseph Conecin
Angel Cotto
David Feldmann
Albert Fisher
Nhia Her
Matthew Jacobs
Fahad Mansoor
Matthew Medrano
Erton Okeke
Timothy Quinlan
Nicholas Skogman
Darla Spilde
Vang Thao
Kelsang Wangyal
Fuad Warsame

**Branch 9
City Carrier Assistant (CCA) &
New Career Employees Meeting
THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 2017**

7:00PM

Crystal VFW
5222 56th Avenue North
(Bass Lake Road)
Crystal, MN 55429

This meeting provides City Carrier Assistants (CCA's) and new career employees a great opportunity, in an informal setting, to learn more about your rights at work and your future with the Postal Service.

If you don't know your rights, you have none!

IN MEMORIAM

Robert Harris
James W. Keenan
Basil Kumpula
Vernon Mahrer
George Martin
John McKibbin
Lawrence Molstad
Donald OConnor

**Branch 9
Ron St Clair MDA Bowl-a-thon
Saturday, April 22, 2017**

LOCATION

NEW HOPE BOWL
7107 42nd Avenue North
New Hope, MN 55427

TIME

7:00 - 9:00PM



**Br. 9 Retired Letter Carrier
Kerry Herdine
Home: 952.854.2655
Cell: 612.805.8407**

AME'S UNIFORMS

OUR BUSINESS IS MAKING YOU LOOK GOOD!

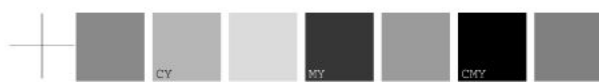
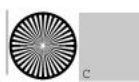
We offer "Life of the Garment" guarantee.

If fixable we will repair your uniform at no cost to you.

Take waist in/out and change hem length

Ame's Uniforms are a UNION PREFERRED vendor

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Richfield Wins Northland District Customer Connect Breakfast

By: Joe Rian, Branch 9 Trustee & Richfield Steward

I would like to express my sincere and grateful admiration to all my Richfield co-workers for the hard work and fun we had competing and ultimately winning the 2016 Northland District Customer Connect breakfast held on February 15, 2017. Led by the example of veteran carriers Jeanne Spratt and Richard (Red) Langsdorf, Richfield made getting a customer connect lead a grand experience, worthy of applause and theme music. With help from Northland District Custom Connect Coordinator Kelly Buesgens, our management team and our friends in the clerk craft, we made working on Customer Connect a regular and entertaining part of our daily

duties as USPS employees. Brother Red took his 30+ years of experience and patiently helped each of us learn how to use the Customer Connect lead card to make friends with our customers, get a lead and turn it into a sale. Sister Jeanne took our completed lead cards and ensured they were submitted on time. Her follow up on the leads was meticulous and relentless. She really made sure our customer leads mattered!

But above it all, this was a Richfield team effort. Leads were gathered by a station full of dedicated, well dressed, good looking, professionals, us. We supported each other in our endeavors. We each shared something personal

of ourselves when we reached out to people we saw every day and said something like. "I think we can help your business save a little money and, maybe make more money. If you are interested I can have one of our experts call and explain it to you." It sounds a little scary at first, but just like getting all the letters down a mail slot, it gets a lot easier every time you do it.

We hope we can keep the momentum going in 2017. After all, it was a very, very tasty breakfast.



UNIFORMS UNLIMITED

Minneapolis
2220 Lyndale Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55405
612-377-0011

The Twin Cities Postal Headquarters



St. Paul
935 N. Dale Street
St. Paul, MN 55103
651-224-7567

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